

REMARKS

Claims 1-24, 29, 30 and 31 are now in the application. Claim 31 is newly added. Claim 15 has been amended to recite that the "homogeneous liquid oil/solid fat composition is obtained by cooling the obtained solution by quenching to 20°C or below thereby solidifying the composition or cooling the obtained solution by quenching to 20°C or below and kneading it thereby plasticizing the composition". This amendment to claim 15 is along the lines of the examiner's suggestion to render the claims allowable over the cited art. Claim 15 has also been amended to recite "or the liquid oil/solid fat has a melting point of below 20°C and the homogenous liquid oil/solid fat composition is an oil-in-water emulsion by quenching the obtained solution to 10°C or below". This amendment to claim 15 finds support at page 24, lines 6 to 14 of the specification. The amendments to the claims and newly presented claim 31 do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 15, 16, 21-24, 29, 30 and 31 are directed to the elected invention. Claims 1-14 and 17-20 are drawn to non-elected invention and may be canceled by the examiner upon the allowance of the claims directed to the elected invention.

The rejections of Claims 15, 23-25 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by and of Claims 15, 16, 21 and 22 under 35 USC 103 (a) as being obvious over US patent 6,441,050 to Chopra have been overcome by the above amendments to the claims. In particular, Claim 15 now recites quenching at 20°C or below or at 10°C or below. As appreciated by the Examiner, Chopra only teaches cooling to 100°F while mixing, which is much higher than the 20°C or 10°C recited in claim 15. It is noted that the statement in the office action that Chopra "teaches cooling to 100°C while mixing" is a typographical error and should be 100°F.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21581-00500-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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